

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7129

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CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MORG, GR

SUBJECT: FORCED RESIGNATION OF GENRAL PAPANICOLAOU

1. CHIEF OF STAFF HELLENIC AIR FORCE, LT. GENERAL PAPANICOLAOU, WAS ASKED TO RESIGN JANUARY 23 BY THE GOG AND HAS BEEN SUCCEEDED BY THE NEXT HIGHEST RANKING HAF OFFICER ON ACTIVE DUTY, LT. GEN. PERICLES ECONOMOU, COMMANDER OF THE 28TH TACTICAL AIR FORCE. PAPANICOLAOU HAD BEEN APPOINTED BY IOANNIDES IN NOVEMBER 1973. HE IS LAST TO GO OF SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS UNDER JUNTA GOVERNMENTS WHO WERE IN COMMAND UPON RETURN OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT LAST SUMMER.

2. ECONOMOU IS REGARDED AS APOLITICAL GENERAL WHOSE APPOINTMENT MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT EITHER AIR VICE MARSHAL KOKKAS OR GENERAL VIAKAKOS, BOTH OF WHOM WERE DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED BY JUNTA AFTER CONSTANTINE'S DECEMBER 1967 COUNTER-COUP, MAY BE RECALLED TO LEAD HAF. ECONOMOU WAS HIGHEST RANING GREEK AF OFFICER AT SHAPE IN 1970, IS CONSIDERED PRO-NATO, AND HAS BROTHER WHO WAS GREEK AF
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ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON 1972-74.

KUBISHC

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Message Attributes

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